On January 6, 2020, Thomas Buschatzke, Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (Department), issued the Proposed Management Plan for the Phoenix Active Management Area for the Fourth Management Period, 2010 to 2020 (Proposed Plan). The Department held a public hearing on the Proposed Plan at the Arizona Department of Water Resources on February 10, 2020. At the hearing the Department gave a presentation and accepted comments on the Proposed Plan. The Department also accepted written comments on the Proposed Plan from January 6, 2020 until 5:00 P.M. on February 10, 2020. A copy of the transcript from the February 10, 2020 public hearing is available here. A copy of the Proposed Plan is available here.

On March 11, 2020, Thomas Buschatzke, Director of the Department (Director), filed in the Department a written Summary of Hearing and Findings with respect to matters considered during the public hearing on the Proposed Plan. The Summary of Hearing and Findings is available here. The Summary of Hearing and Findings indicated, and the Director determined, that some modifications to the Proposed Plan were necessary. Also on March 11, 2020, the Director entered an order adopting the Management Plan for the Phoenix Active Management Area for the Fourth Management Period, 2010 to 2020 (Fourth Management Plan) and describing the modifications made to the Fourth Management Plan. The Order of Adoption is available here.

The Fourth Management Plan, available here, contains mandatory conservation, monitoring, and reporting requirements for certain persons withdrawing, distributing, or receiving groundwater within the Phoenix Active Management Area (PhxAMA). These requirements which are set forth in the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Municipal Conservation Program, and the Industrial Conservation Program of the plan, are designed to achieve reductions in withdrawals of groundwater within the PhxAMA. The Fourth Management Plan also includes a Groundwater Quality Management Program, an Augmentation and Recharge Program, a Water Management Assistance Program, an introductory chapter and chapters discussing water resources, water use characteristics, groundwater quality, plan implementation, and water management strategy.

Copies of the Fourth Management Plan, the Summary of Hearing and Findings, and the Order of Adoption are available for viewing at the Department's office in Phoenix, as well as the following libraries located in the PhxAMA: Burton Barr Central Library, Buckeye Public Library, and Mesa Public Library. A person may request a copy of any of the aforementioned documents in either paper or electronic format by contacting Sharon Scantlebury at (602) 771-8472 or sscantlebury@azwater.gov.

Since ADWR did not receive a timely motion for rehearing or review, the March 11, 2020 Order of Adoption is now final for purposes of judicial review. The conservation requirements in the Phoenix AMA 4th Management Plan will go into effect on January 1, 2023.